

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-277

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From: Sarah Dillon
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Fri, Mar 21, 2003 11:10 AM
Subject: Keep media free and competitive

MAR 25 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner:

One of the basic elements which help to keep the American media at least partially free and independent is the set of FCC regulations restricting consolidation and monopolies

In the 2002 Biennial Review, the FCC appears to be planning to roll back many of these protective regulations: the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, the National Broadcast Ownership Cap, the Local Radio Ownership Rule, the Duopoly Rule and the Dual Network Rule.

Relaxation or abandonment of the preceding rules will result in the purchase of local and independent newspapers and radio and television stations by large media giants. The cost to the American People and Democracy will be far too high if local news, reportorial freedom and access to a true variety of legitimate views are further compromised.

Commissioner, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules.

Sincerely,

Sarah Elizabeth Dillon
P O. Box 487
Terre Haute, IN 47808

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